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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE MINING FIELD.

A Two Days Drive Through the Mining District of Crittenden and Livingston Counties, and Some Facts Concerning a Few of the Mines Seen on my Trip.

Leaving Marion at 6:30 o'clock I took the Crittenden Springs road. A few minutes' drive set me down at the wonderful Columbia Lead and Zinc mine. This mine was worked some 25 years ago just for lead. Transportation facilities not being as good as at present, there being no railroad in this county then, and about that time the wonderful lead strike at Leadville, Colo., so depreciated lead ore this mine could not be worked profitably. It has lain idle ever since, until some 5 years ago when Louisville parties took hold of it, cleaned up the old works, retimbering the shaft, which was about 160 feet in depth, after seeing the great amount of ore (lead and zinc) barely scratched over, they at once began the erection of a 50 ton mill, which has been in operation every day since completion, turning out a high grade lead and zinc concentrate. Mr. R. D. Dreacher is general manager and a perfect gentleman in every respect.

The next stop was at the renowned money making "Old Jim" owned by Bine & Nunn of Marion, Ky. This property cost the owners \$1,000 and in less than 6 months gave them a net profit of \$75,000. The ore of this mine are carbonate and Jack. Mr. Uren is Supt. Here I took a short walk up to the "Lady Farmer," owned by Henderson parties. This was bought for a carbonate of zinc mine and has been a steady producer and shipper of this ore. Mr. Jennings is Supt. Walking back to my horse I then made a short drive over to the "9 acre" tract, Blue & Nunn of Old Jim fame also own this. This property joins the Columbia, and on same vein, and has shipped tons of carbonate and now has 4 ft of lead and zinc between two walls. Messrs Blue & Nunn have erected a mill of the Joplin type for the separation of the ore. Here I walked down to the Crittenden Springs, and took a drink of that famous water before doing the Major Clements mine on same vein. Major Clem-

ents, owner and manager, has his mine in tiptop shape, and producing a high grade zinc sulphide ore and plenty of it. The Major will treat you right when you come to see him.

Now, a few steps to the Wilson Mining company's mine, a producer of fluor spar, and at present showing a good grade of copper ore. Walk down the hill, cross the branch to the Greer-Marble mine, a shipper of carbonate owned by Paducah parties.

Now then let's go back a little way and see that young giant, the Ada-Florence, owned by the Louisville and Marion Mining Co. Here they struck at 8 ft. depth a 7 foot vein of No. 1 fluor spar, and now at 20 feet it is giving the company such chunks of lead that you can hear Persons (President) say to Gray (director) "Here, George, help me turn this over; I'll be d-d if this ain't solid lead."

Now for a short drive to that wonderful mine of lead, zinc and fluor spar on the great LaRue vein owned by Morganfield and Henderson capitalists, known as the Big 4. The present owners paid \$4,800 for this property, and have refused \$10,000. Stand on the platform and see tons upon top of tons of the finest grade of lead, zinc and fluor spar, now ready for the market, and you would say with me that they would be foolish to accept such an offer. They have, and have had for some time, 16 wagons hauling this ore to the railroad. Mr. Noe, the general manager, and the owner of 1-4 interest, will be glad to show you this mine, show you where this great amount of ore came from. Mr. Reed, the mining expert, says this vein can be mined profitably 3,000 feet.

Step right across the creek to the old LaRue mine, now being worked by the parties above mentioned. This is being mined by open cut and shaft, tons of ore being mined and shipped every day. Next comes the Deer creek Mining Co. on same vein. They have not shipped any ore, as they will erect a mill on this property for separation of their ores. They already have a plant capable of sinking 1,000 feet.

Next on same vein is what is known as the Hayward property, which sold a few days ago for \$12,500 to Evansville parties. We

doubt but what they have an excellent property.

Porter & Archer, of Owensboro, Ky., own the next mine on this vein. They have only had this property a few days but are now showing fine ore of lead and fluor spar.

Then comes the Glendale Mining company's property. They sank their shaft on the East wall some 80 feet and are now cross-cutting for the vein, which they will cut in a few more feet.

The old Franks mine, an old residenter, one of the three that was worked 25 years ago, the present owners Ky Fluor Spar Co., have a shaft and open cut, from which they can take first class ore.

Next comes the Flannery mine, owned by the Crittenden County Mining Co., of Henderson. They crosscut the surface and caught the vein 20 feet wide. They have a shaft down 30 feet in rich ores of lead, zinc and fluor spar. The company will erect a mill on this property in the near future; while this shaft on the famous LaRue vein the property also has two other veins crossing it.

The next property is owned by the Haurays, of Marion, Ky.; they came in possession of it only a short time ago and have not as yet struck the vein.

Then comes the Beard mine, owned by Cleveland, Ohio, capitalists. But here I had to stop and turn back.

Next on my list was the Givens Mining company, of Providence, Ky. By-the-way, this is one of the best mines in the district. It has been a steady producer and shipper of fluor spar for the past three years. One shaft 125 feet in depth has been sunk by Mr. Givens on what is known as the Flannery silver dike. This shaft has carried all the way a vein of manganese, cobalt and nickel ore, and gives assay values \$640 per ton. I understand there has been a small plant ordered from Germany to handle these ores.

Mr. Cartwright, the superintendent, will show you this fine ore.

There were a half dozen other mines in hollowing distance, but I did not have the time to see them this trip. Next stop was made at the Miller carbonate of zinc mine, where I found everything moving nicely under the supervision of Mr. Fred Clement. This property has shipped a great amount of carbonate of zinc and now has hundreds of tons of ore awaiting the completion of the mill for separating the lead and zinc. Don't miss seeing this property.

From here I drove over the hills to the Salem district, where some of the best mines in the country are to be found. My first stop was made at the Callen, or Evening Star mine, the king of the district, owned by the Eagle Fluor Spar Company, of Wheeling, W. Va. It looks like a young city when you come in sight of it. The company just sunk a shaft on the vein 75 feet, at that depth they have 20 feet of lead, zinc and fluor spar between walls. The company then began and erected a mill to handle this ore, but some say

it did not meet the requirements of the company. Last winter they moved over from the vein some 80 feet and started a straight shot with the intention of catching the vein at about 150 feet. This shaft cut the vein at 165 feet, striking almost pure lead. As this was during the rainy season work was stopped, and then began the erection of the largest mill and mining plant in Kentucky. The dimensions are 90 x 120 feet and 120 feet high. It will be equipped with two 200 horse power boilers and the latest pattern of machinery for the ore. Capt. Hauray is general manager, a nice gentleman or a better hustler you can't find than the captain.

Now for a walk of 500 yards to the Nancy Hanks, owned by the Albany Mining and Investment Co., of Albany, Ind. You may take off your hat to this company and its management. After spending considerable money prospecting for the vein, which seemed to be scattered for some depth, they erected a mining plant capable of sinking 1000 feet, which they determined to go or find the ore they were looking for. At the 157 foot level they ran a cross cut to catch the vein. They were rewarded a few days ago in the shape of a vein of lead and fluor spar 80 feet between walls. The entire vein will yield about 48 per cent lead. Mr. G. E. Ratcliff, general manager, thoroughly understands his business.

North of this mine one mile is the Stevens fire clay mine, owned by the Kewanee Fire Clay Co., of Kewanee, Ill. This mine needs no mentioning to the people of Crittenden and Livingston counties. Think of one mine employing, from 75 to 150 wagons per day hauling this ore to the railroad for the four months it was worked last year, all ore being mined the same day it was hauled. They have a mountain of this ore and have done hundreds of feet of sinking and tunneling the past six months preparatory to shipping again in a short time. Supt. C. R. Stevens will take a delight in showing you through the many passages under this mountain.

As I had heard so much about the cave, or natural shaft on the white property, owned by the Crittenden Mining Co., I drove over to see it. Here is a shaft 100 feet deep, made by the connection of two immense ore veins, one of zinc and the other of fluor spar. At 65 and 95 feet the company has run levels on both veins in fine ore and have tons of first class ore ready for the market. There is such an immense cavern at the bottom which can be used for years for the storage of waste or refuse, having to hoist nothing but marketable ore. It is simply wonderful and you will be paid for the time spent in visiting it.

As my time was limited I did not get to see the other good mines of the Salem district. Such as the Bill Bailey, owned by the Shady Grove Mining Co., who have an excellent vein of fluor spar and barites, seven feet between walls, and the Babb, owned

by the Eagle Fluor Spar Co. This mine made quite a record mining and shipping 470 tons of fluor spar from one shaft 9 x 40 in two and a half months work. This company also owns several other good mines in sight of Salem.

Leaving Salem I made my next stop at the Hodge fluor spar mine owned by the Kentucky Fluor Spar Co. This has been the greatest producer of fluor spar of any in the district, mining it by shaft and open cut; the shaft is now down some 200 feet; the vein has varied from 10 to 20 feet of highest grade grinding spar. This mine is equipped with all necessary mining machinery.

Across the field a short distance is the Riley lead and zinc mine, owned by the Marion Zinc Co. Julius Fols, manager of the company has sunk several shafts in the Marion break, all in good vein and are now nearing the completion of a 50 ton mill of the Joplin type.

My next stops were at the Yandell, and Asbridge fluor spar mines; owned by the Ky Fluor Spar Co., the Tabb, owned by the Wheatcroft Mining Company, the Pogue, owned by Marion Mineral company, all heavy producers of fluor spar, and equipped with the latest mining machinery.

Then dropped over to the Levis camp and stopped at the Eaton mine, owned by Louisville parties. Here by the use of plows and scrapers an open cut was made some 600 ft long by 20 wide, and from which there has already been mined and shipped nearly 500 tons of fluor spar. I noticed here that fluor spar gives way to lead and zinc at a very shallow depth.

A few steps across the field are the Manley and LaRue mines, producers of lead, zinc and fluor spar. Coming back a short distance I again struck the Columbia vein, where the Keystone Mining Co. have a shaft down 100 feet in fine lead and fluor spar. This mine has steam hoist, steam drills, and a glance shows you it is under good management. Mr. Tom Hope well is Supt. and his work shows him to be an expert miner.

My next and last visit was in the suburbs of Marion, at the Lucile, owned by the Lucile Mining Co., J. R. Finley, manager. This company has done a great great deal of work and has been quite a help in developing this district. They are now down 185 feet and hoisting every day a high grade of zinc, sulphur and lead ore. Here I finished my trip being a little tired from my drive I lay down and had a dream seeing large smelters, mills, mining plants and railroads all over the district, and if I could have slept one-fourth the time of Rip Van Winkle when I awakened I would have found it all true.

Our New Salem correspondent says: Men hunting investments in mining property still continue to arrive. Good strikes are being made almost every day by the prospectors.

The Pogue mine is still turning out its thirty tons per day of fine grade gravel spar. Arch Oliver has charge of the mine and Geo. Russell of the machinery and the boys pull together like two well broke steers. They will begin sinking when the present stope is worked out, and run a new stope. This mine is about the only one in that section that is taking out any large quantity of spar, and none of them are doing any shipping just now, probably on account of the terribly washed condition of the roads.

We clip the following items from the Princeton Leader:

Wm. S. Lowery, of Hopkinsville, was here Tuesday. Mr. Lowery is greatly interested in mining. At present he spends his time in Marion and Hopkinsville. He is connected with the West Kentucky Mining company and expects great success for the mines in Crittenden county.

W. J. Deboe, of Marion, was here Tuesday. He is interested in the Senator mines of the county.

A geological survey has been ordered of Kentucky with the view of locating mineral deposits in the various sections of the state. C. J. Norman, chief of the department, has appointed Sam Denny to take charge of the work in Hopkins county. He will start in a few days with a crew of fifty men and will make the survey of Hopkins county complete in every detail. The survey will be of great value to Hopkins county.

At the Riley mines things are moving off smoothly. A number of miners houses are to be erected soon. Mr. Riley lives at Kuttawa and has struck things right in the mining business.

The Greer & Marble mines in Crittenden county, near Crittenden Springs, are progressing nicely. These mines promise to be very profitable and as our former townsman, Wm. Marble, is interested we certainly hope such will be the case.

Our Salem correspondent says: Messrs Smith and Vana, who are interested in the Nancy Hanks mines, are here for a few weeks. They are very much pleased with their mines. They are getting out some of the best lead you ever saw mined in this section.

At the Cullen mine they are getting along o. k. with their large building, though it will be some time before it is finished.

(CONTINUED ON 8TH PAGE.)